(iii) Wherever feasible, rural areas within 15 KMs radius of towns with a population of one lakh and above.

(b) Based on the above criteria, 64 LPG distributorships in rural areas and 38 LPG distributorships in urban/rural areas have been included in the approved LPG Marketing Plan 1996—98 for Andhra Pradesh.

Misuse of Imported Kerosene

411. SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA DEO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pelased to state:

(a) whether import of kerosene was allowed to be used as raw material;

(b) if so, the names of the agencies/ companies who were given such permission;

(c) the total quantity of kerosene imported for such use; and

(d) whether Government have taken any steps to ensure the kerosene imported for raw-material was not misused?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Kerosene imports have been decanalised and as per the export and import policy (1st April, 97—31st March 2002), imports of kerosene are allowed without any licence/restriction.

(c) Cumulatively, as on 31.10.1998, about 3891 TMT of Kerosene has been imported by various parties under parallel marketing scheme for sale under their own pricing and distribution network.

(d) In order to ensure that kerosene imported for use as raw material is not misused, Govt., vide Notification No. 67/98-customs dated 8th Sept., 98 on exemption of customs duty on kerosene imports by the manufacturers of linear alkyl benzene to extract N-Paraffin, authorised the respective Asstt. Commissioners of Central Excise to assess the quantity of imported kerosene actually consumed in the process of extraction of N-Paraffin and the quantity sold and supplied to M/s. IOCL.

Vide amended control order No. 410 dated 23.10.98, Govt. made it mandatory for the parallel marketeers to file end-use certificate from industrial customers to whom they sell kerosene and furnish customer-wise sales to the State Civil Supplies Authorities, on a quarterly basis.

HPCL pipeline between Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada

412. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pelased to state:

(a) whether the HPCL pipeline between Visakhapatnam-Vijayawada has become operational;

(b) if so, the cost incurred thus far;

(c) the new safety measures instituted;

(d) whether full compensation has been paid to the farmers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 452.31 crores till October, 1998.

(c) Safety measures for the pipeline are as follows:—

(i) The pipeline is provided externally with the coaltar enamel coating for protection from corrosion and further supplemented by impressed current cathodic protection system.

(ii) Supervisory control and data acquisition for gathering the operating parameters all along the length of the pipeline besides the leak detection system.

(iii) Corrosion inhibiting system for controlling the internal corrosion of the pipeline.

(iv) Right of way surveillance by line walkers on continuous basis.

(v) Foam tender for firefighting.

(d) and (e) Full compensation for land and crops/trees worth Rs. 2.32 crores (approximately) has been deposited with competent authority and an amount of Rs. 1.52 crores (approximately) has been disbursed to the farmers so far.

LPG agencies in every Mandal of A.P.

413. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to open two new LPG agencies in every Mandal in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken to increase LPG supply in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) From the Marketing Plan 1996—98, it has been decided to extend the LPG facility for the rural areas adjoining the towns also, as per the following policy.

(i) Wherever feasible, all towns with a population of 5,000 and above including villages within 15 KMs. radius, to make a viable distributorship.

(ii) Wherever feasible, all villages with a population of 10,000 and above, including the villages within 15 KMs. radius, to make a viable distributorships.

(iii) Wherever feasible, rural areas within 15 KMs radius of towns with a population of one lakh and above.

Based on the above criteria, to meet the increased demand of LPG in Andhra Pradesh, 64 LPG distributorships in rural areas and 38 LPG distributorships in urban/rural areas have been included in the approved LPG Marketing Plan 1996—98 for Andhra Pradesh.

Incentives to Private Bidders for Oil Exploration

414. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose of offer deep acreages with high potential for oil exploration for bidding by private parties, if so, the details of the proposal;

(b) whether Government propose to give incentives to private parties for oil exploration, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) be in the negative the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes Sir, 12 Deep Offshore blocks along the East Coast of India beyond 400 m. isobath have been identified for offer under the first round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). The details of these blocks are enclosed at Statement. *(See* below)

(b) NELP provides for half the rate of royalty for the first seven years after commencement of Commercial production for deep water offshore areas beyond 400 m. isobath, both for private as well as public sesctor entities besides several other fiscal concessions.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to (b) above.